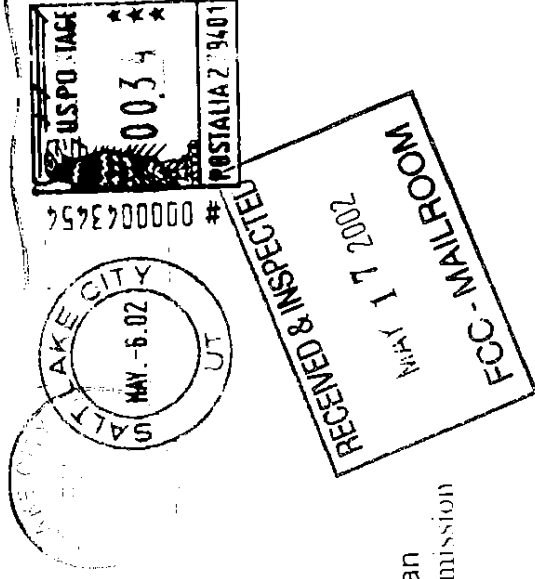


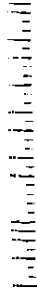
UTAH STATE SENATE

SENATOR
HOWARD A. STEPHENSON
1038 E. 13590 S.
DRAPER, UT 84020

ms Docket NO. 2-348



Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554



HB 00161 no. 01-348
UTAH STATE SENATE

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SENATOR
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UTAH COUNTIES

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STANDING COMMITTEES
Administrative Rules Review Co-Chair
Education
Revenue & Taxation

Mr. Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The EchoStar Company and the Hughes Electronic Corporation recently held a presentation in the state of Utah concerning the proposed merger. We were thrilled to see that the future technology of internet services and television viewing is here on our doorstep today. The opportunities for Americans everywhere in this great land to enjoy unlimited satellite television, radio and internet are exciting. Our economy will reap benefits from this with new ideas and better international communications. While we can see that there are competitors who are frightened by this proposal, we need to remember that the entrepreneurial spirit in America has created lifestyle changes that we would never give up. We thrive on the different modes of transportation, by air, by rail, and by car, we thrive on our telephones, land lines and mobiles; and we watch our television and listen to the radio. New businesses have been born from these technology advances not hindered.

We urge a review of the merger that is free from competitive interference. We can see only advantages to the economy and the citizens of America when this merger is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Howard A. Stephenson".

Howard Stephenson, Senator
Utah State Senate
District #4

Mr. Powell rec'd
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Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5184

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Chairman, Michael Powell

Federal Communications Commission
445 19th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell;

The pending merger between EchoStar Communications and **Hughes** Electronics, is an important and significant step in the provision of pay television in our country and in my home State of South Dakota.

EchoStar Communications Corporation, Hughes Electronic and General **Motors** believe that us as consumers will reap tremendous benefits from the merger of EchoStar and Hughes. The companies' two services DISH Network and DIRECTV today each transmit a total of more than 500 identical channels. Us as consumers will **benefit** from the massive **increase** of Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS) satellite capacity that will result from the elimination of this duplicative programming. Indeed as a direct **result** of this merger, us as consumers across the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii will have access to local broadcast channels with digital quality television picture and CD-quality sound in every one of the **210** television **markets** nationwide and specifically four markets here in South Dakota. Another great benefit of this merger will **be** the offering of high-speed Internet access.

In many of our small towns and rural areas, satellite-based pay television is the only option and Internet access is usually restricted to dial-up service if it is accessible at all. In order for all consumers to continue to receive the **benefits** of competition in the pay television industry, it is **vital** the merged EchoStar entity price its service as they do **now**, on a nationwide pricing basis. In so doing, all of us benefit from satellite-based television prices that are **determined** by taking into consideration the **extensive** competition that exists in most areas **of** the country.

The potential benefit of the proposed merger, such as enhanced services, high-speed Internet, and more local station broadcasts, are considerable. They should **be** intensively evaluated along with a nationwide pricing model that will help ensure competitive prices in states like ours.

Thank you for your consideration of my views in this pending merger.

Sincerely,


Jon D. Larsen
Network Administrator

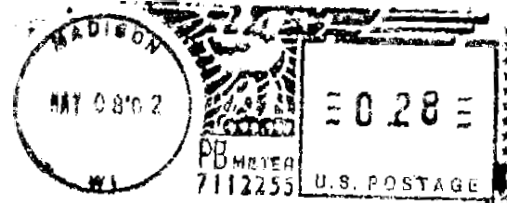
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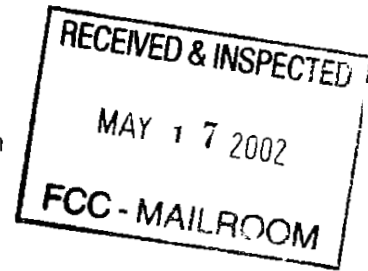
TED KANAVAS
STATE SENATOR

P.O. Box 7882 • Room 22 South
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882

PRESTIGE
FIRST CLASS



The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20554



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MRB Dickerson. 01-348



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TED KANAVAS

STATE SENATOR

Tuesday, May 07, 2002

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I write you today to ask you to support the merger of EchoStar Communications Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation. I support this merger and believe it will be good for consumers across Wisconsin and the United States.

Many of the critics are opposed to this merger on the grounds that it will eliminate competition by creating only one satellite communications provider. However, I would like to offer a different perspective on the planned merger.

First, this merger should not be looked at through the eye of what effect it will have on satellite communications companies, but with a global vision of opening up competition within the entire spectrum of electronic communications, providing consumers more options to fill their communications needs.

Secondly, this merger will provide the economies of scale necessary to make satellite communications a real competitor in bringing a seamless level of service across the country, both in urban and rural settings. Today many communities have few or no options when it comes to finding reliable broadband digital service. This merger will help build a bridge across that digital divide.

I have been involved in the start-up of two different high-tech companies and my experience has shown me that building a network of scale is necessary to achieve competitive market share.

Again, I ask you to support this merger and thank you for your time looking at this important issue.

Sincerely,

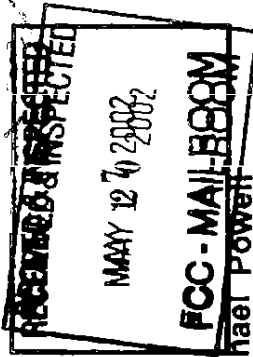
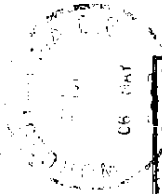
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Kanavas".

TED KANAVAS
State Senator

TJK/bap

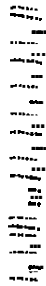
1B Docket NO. 01-348

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Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference # 01-348



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STANDING COMMITTEES

Vocational Education, Chairman
Business
Curriculum Development

April 25, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference# 01-348

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing to you regarding the imminent merger between Hughes Electronics DirectTV and EchoStar Communications.

One of the most attractive aspects of the merger will be the new company's ability to offer affordable high-speed internet services to every household. Currently, local cable operators lag behind in their promises to connect every household with affordable broadband services. Some households are years away from connection.

In my capacity as a member of the Worcester School Committee, I know how important and vital the availability of internet access is to all of our children. The need for access regardless of income is **but** one of the barriers we must overcome for our children if they are to receive a truly equitable education.

In **Worcester**, we are looking for new ways in which to reach parents and students. **All** of our research shows that television and the internet are the least expensive and most effective way of communicating between home and school. One of the more effective tutoring options for students **is** on-line.

We are currently utilizing the VES System, (Virtual Education Space, <http://www.ves.mass.edu/portal.html>) to enable greater communication and networking for teachers to augment their lessons, and provide students with "real-time" on-line tutoring. Parents should have the ability to access the System within the next two years.

As I understand it, this merger between Hughes and EchoStar will make high-speed internet access available within the very near future. This merger would enable us to **reach** more students and families, and assist us in this very important step towards closing the academic achievement gap.

Respectfully, I would ask that you seriously consider supporting the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics DirectTV.

Sincerely,

Kate Toomey
Worcester School Committee Member

02-1183147